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USIA WASHDC

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USDEL JEC PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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CIA

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JUSMAAG

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USAJFKCMA/ATCS-WL-DSA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, EGEN, PGOV, PINR, VN

SUBJ: EMBASSY SAIGON NORTH VIET-NAM BI-WEEKLY NO. 31

SUMMARY: BEING CAREFUL TO DESCRIBE THEIR CURRENT MILITARY ACTIVITY AS "UPRISINGS" AND "PUNISHING ATTACKS," THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS CLAIM TO HAVE "COMPLETELY LIBERATED" EIGHT PROVINCES AND "MANY" OTHER AREAS THUS FAR, AND TO HAVE SET UP "REVOLUTIONARY ADMINISTRATIONS" IN THESE "NEWLY REGAINED AREAS." OFFICIAL "PRG" STATEMENTS HAVE REPEATED THE FAMILIAR PRECONDITIONS OF OCTOBER 1974 FOR A RENEWAL OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GVN. COMMUNIST PROPAGANDISTS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO DEAL WITH THE EMBARRASSING PROBLEM OF MASSIVE NUMBERS OF REFUGGEES FLEEING "LIBERATION," AND THERE HAVE BEEN FREQUENT CALLS FOR DESERTIONS OR UPRISINGS IN GVN-HELD AREAS. HANOI'S PLANNING OF THIS OFFENSIVE, REFLECTED IN CAPTURED DOCUMENTS IN RECENT MONTHS, IS APPARENTLY BASED ON THE CRITICAL ASSUMPTION THAT THE U.S. WILL NOT INTERVENE MILITARILY UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS JUDGEMENT HAS TIPPED THE BALANCE IN THE ONGOING GUNS-VS-BUTTER ARGUMENT WHICH HAS RAGED IN HANOI SINCE THE PARIS AGREEMENT. MEANWHILE, THE "PRG" IN HANOI HAS PLEADED PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY FOR EMERGENCY FOOD AID FOR ITS "ONE MILLION NEWLY LIBERATED COMRADES." DRV PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG TOLD A SWEDISH VISITOR HE WAS SURPRISED
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AT THE "PRG'S" RAPID SUCCESS IN THE SOUTH AND ATTRIBUTED IT TO DECLINING ARVN MORALE, BUT HIGHWAY ONE FROM HANOI TO QUANG TRI WAS CLOGGED WITH MILITARY VEHICLES CARRYING SUPPLIES TO THE FRONT. A VWP POLITBURO MEMBER VISITING BUDAPEST PUBLICLY THANKED HUNGARY FOR ITS "SOLIDARITY AND FRIENDSHIP" ON THE ICCS. THE "PRG" RATHER BELATEDLY CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THE BOMBING OF A BUSLOAD OF AMERICANS IN SAIGON.

AT A VIETNAM FATHERLAND FROMT CONFERENCE, THE APPROVED "MAJOR

TASKS" LISTED AID TO THE WAR IN THE SOUTH ABOVE MOBILIZATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. PREPARATIONS FOR NATIONWIDE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND LOCAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL NEARED COMPLETION. THE AUTHOR OF THE JANUARY "HOC TAP" ARTICLE WHICH RATIONIZED THE CURRENT OFFENSIVE, TRUONG CHI CUONG, DIED MARCH 24.

IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE CHINESE MILITARY DELEGATION WHICH ARRIVED IN HANOI FEB 28 FINALLY DEPARTED MARCH 14. HANOI CELEBRATED THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAMBODIAN REVOLUTION WITH EXPRESSIONS OF MUTUAL THANKS, AND A LAO DELEGATION LED BY NPCC VICE PRESIDENT PRINCE SISONMANG ARRIVED FOR AN "OFFICIAL VISIT." BOTH THE DRV AND "PRG" SEEM TO FEEL THEIR FOREIGN POLICY IS IMPROVING BUT IS STILL NOT SATISFACTORY. A DRV ECONOMIC DELEGATION IS VISITING JAPAN TO NEGOTIATE AID; THE NEW AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO HANOI PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS; ITALY PLANS TO OPEN AN EMBASSY IN HANOI; THE DRV AMBASSADOR TO GUINEA BISSAU HAS PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS. THE "PRG'S" MME. BINH ENDED HER VISIT TO TRIPOLI WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF THE "PRG" BY LIBYA, AND SHE SHOWED UP NEXT IN CYPRUS.

END SUMMARY

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I. NORTH VIETNAM'S OFFENSIVE IN THE SOUTH

A. THE COMMUNISTS REPORT WAR VICTORIES.

1. NEWS REPORTING ON THE WAR IN THE SOUTH HAS BEEN ISSUED EXCLUSIVELY BY THE "PRG'S" LIBERATION RADIO AND LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY; NORTH VIETNAMESE MEDIA HAVE CONTENTED THEMSELVES WITH COMMENTARY, AMPLIFICATION, AND REPEATS OF LPA COVERAGE. THE OFFICIAL LINE CONTINUES TO BE THAT THE "NEW PHASE" IS A COMBINATION OF POPULAR "UPRISINGS" AND SOUTHERN PLAF "ATTACKS," "COUNTERATTACKS," OR "OFFENSIVES" INTENDED TO "PUNISH" THE GVN AND U.S. FOR "SABOTAGING"

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THE PARIS AGREEMENTS" AND "SCHEMING TO PROLONG THE WAR." THERE HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN NO CLAIM THAT THIS IS A "MAJOR" OR "GENERAL" OFFENSIVE AS IN 1968 OR 1972, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF THE COMMUNISTS OFT-REPEATED "RESPECT" FOR THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

2. COMMUNIST MEDIA, AS OF MARCH 26, CLAIMED THAT EIGHT PROVINCES (DARLAC, KONTUM, PLEIKU, PHU BON, QUANG TRI, BINH LONG, THUA THIEN, QUANG NGAI) HAD BEEN "COMPLETELY LIBERATED," A FIGURE WELL BELOW CONTEMPORARY WESTERN PRESS ESTIMATES, AND THAT ONE OTHER PROVINCE CAPITAL (TAM KY) AND "MANY" DISTRICT TOWNS HAD COME UNDER "PRG" CONTROL, SINCE EARLY MARCH.

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3. THE "PRG" CLAIMS TO HAVE CIVIL ADMINISTRATIONS SET UP IN ALL THE NEWLY "LIBERATED AREAS. MEDIA ATTENTION HAS BEEN LAVISHED PARTICULARLY ON BAN ME THUOT, THE FIRST PROVINCIAL CAPITAL TO FALL IN THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN. A PLAF SENIOR COLONEL YBLOC EBAN IS IDENTIFIED AS CHAIRMAN OF BOTH THE PROVINCIAL AND THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES. HE ARRIVED TO TAKE CHARGE ON MARCH 18, A WEEK AFTER THE COMMUNISTS CLAIM TO HAVE TAKEN MILITARY CONTROL AND TWO DAYS AFTER AN "ENVOY OF THE PRG" ARRIVED TO SPEAK TO TEACHERS AND OTHERS IN THE CITY. ACCORDING TO LYRICAL LIB RADIO FEATURE STORIES, MUNICIPAL SERVICES HAVE BEEN RESTORED IN BAN ME THUOT, THE MARKET IS THRIVING, AND LIFE IS "ALMOST BACK TO NORMAL" DESPITE ALLEGED PERIODIC AIR RAIDS. SIMILAR SITUATIONS ARE REPORTED IN OTHER TOWNS. IN PLEIKU, LIB RADIO REPORTS THAT THE COMMUNISTS "TOOK CONTROL OF THE CITY PRISON AND LIBERATED ALL THE COMPATRIOTS WHO WERE DETAINED THERE."
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4. A RECENT PRISONER REPORT INDICATES THAT A GROUP OF SOME 150 NORTH VIETNAMESE CIVILIANS WERE IN THE LAO INFILTRATION PIPELINE JAN 28 ENROUTE TO SOUTH TO WORK AS "PRG" CIVIL SERVANTS TO CONSOLIDATE COMMUNIST AUTHORITY IN THE SOUTH. MOST WERE TEACHERS OR FACTORY WORKERS, AND SOME HAD BEEN LOCAL PARTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN
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NORTH VIETNAM.
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5. FOLLOWING THE FALL OF DARLAC AND QUANG TRI, HANOI MEDIA HAVE

RECENTLY BEEN DESCRIBING THE BATTLE ZONE AS "THE SIX CENTRAL VIETNAM PROVINCES FROM THUA THIEN IN THE NORTH TO PHY YEN IN THE SOUTH." HOWEVER, ONE VNA REPORT ON MARCH 23, CITING COMMUNIST ACQUISITIONS IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF SVN, ALLEGED THAT A "NEW DEFENSE LINE" WAS BEING SET UP BY THE GVN "AROUND THE PROVINCES OF THU DAU MOT (GVN BINH DUONG), TAY NINH, LONG AN, BA RIA (GVN PHUOC TUY) AND LONG KHANH," ALL IN THE SAIGON VICINITY.

6. SINCE THE COMMUNISTS DENY THAT THIS IS A MAJOR, COORDINATED OFFENSIVE, THEY HAVE NOT ARTICULATED OVERALL GOALS FOR IT BEYOND THAT OF "PUNISHING" THE ENEMY UNTIL HE QUILTS. THE TWO OFFICIAL "PRG" STATEMENTS ISSUED MARCH 21 AND 26 HAVE REPEATED THE HARSH PRECONDITIONS FIRST AIRED OCTOBER 8, 1974, FOR A RESUMPTION OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GVN, I.E., AN END TO U.S. AID AND "MILITARY INVOLVEMENT AND INTERVENTION" IN SOUTH VIETNAM, THE TOPPLING OF THE "THIEU CLIQUE," AND THE ESTABLISHMENT IN SAIGON OF A MORE PLIABLE REGIME.

7. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY EMBARRASSED PUBLICLY AND FRUSTRATED PRIVATELY BY THE MASS EMIGRATION OF REFUGEES FROM THE AREAS THEY WERE "LIBERATING", EVEN WHEN LITTLE FIGHTING TOOK PLACE. AN UNREMITTING PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN WAS LAUNCHED MARCH 19 TO EXPLAIN AWAY THIS PHENOMENON AND TO TRY TO REVERSE THE TIDE. SEVERAL APPROACHES HAVE BEEN USED. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE CHARGED THAT ARVN "IS CONDUCTING A LARGE-SCALE CAMPAIGN TO FORCE THE PEOPLE TO FLEE WITH IT," IS USING THE REFUGEES "AS A LIVE SHIELD" TO COVER ITS RETREAT, AND PLANS TO "HERD THEM INTO CONCENTRATION CAMPS," DRAFT THEM "TO SERVE AS CANNONFOOD" AND "CONFISCATE THEIR MONEY." THEY HAVE PUBLICLY THREATENED TO ATTACK RETREATING GVN FORCES IN THE REFUGEE COLUMNS IN AN OBVIOUS EFFORT TO SCARE OFF POTENTIAL EVACUEES, AND THEY HAVE, OF COURSE, MADE GOOD ON THAT THREAT, ATTACKING CIVILIANS AND MILITARY SYSTEMATICALLY AND INDIS-

CRIMINATELY. ALTHOUGH THEY STRAIGHT-FACEDLY DENIED HAVING SHELLED THE DANANG AIRPORT AND KILLING CIVILIANS MARCH 11, THEY HAVE NOT

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MAINTAINED THAT CLAIM MORE RECENTLY. THEY HAVE PLEADED WITH RESIDENTS TO "STAY CLOSE TO YOUR LAND, YOUR VILLAGES AND YOUR CITIES AND BUILD A NEW LIFE." THEY HAVE LIONIZED THE PLAF FOR ITS "SELF-IMPOSED, STRICT DISCIPLINE" AND "FINE REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT," CLAIMING THAT "ONLY A FEW DAYS AFTER OUR TROOPS HAVE OCCUPIED RECENTLY RECOVERED AREAS" THEY ARE "TRUSTED, LOVED AND WHOLE-HEARTEDLY ASSISTED BY THE COMPATRIOTS." THEY FURTHER INSIST THAT "PRG" POLICY IS TO "PROTECT OUR COMPATRIOTS' LIVES, PROPERTY AND FREEDOMS--THE FREEDOM OF WORSHIP, TO OWN PRIVATE PROPERTY, TO CONDUCT LEGAL BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS, TO LIVE A FREE LIFE AND SO FORTH." IN ADDITION, THEY HAVE PUBLICLY AND REPEATEDLY DENIED THAT ANY DEAL REGARDING REFUGEES WAS MADE WITH THE GVN.

8. ANOTHER MAJOR PROPAGANDA THEME HAS BEEN TO APPEAL TO PEOPLE IN GVN-HELD TERRITORY, ESPECIALLY TROOPS AND CIVIL SERVANTS, TO "EITHER REMAIN WHERE THEY ARE, RETURN TO THEIR FORMER LOCALES, JOIN THE REVOLUTION, LEAVE FOR THE LIBERATED AREAS, OR RISE UP AGAINST THE ENEMY. MASS GR INDIVIDUAL MILITARY DESERTIONS HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED AND PUBLICIZED, AND APPEALS HAVE BEEN BROADCAST TO AVOID DESTROYING OFFICIAL FILES, MACHINERY, AND OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THEM. BOTH THREATS AND PROMISES HAVE BEEN ISSUED, OFTEN IN THE SAME ARTICLE. ONE CENTRAL TRUNG BO "URGENT APPEAL" WARNED ON MARCH 23 THAT "IF YOU MISS THE OPPORTUNITY, YOU WILL FEEL REMORSE THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFETIME. HESITATION OR DARING NOT TO TAKE ACTION AT THE PRESENT JUNCTURE WOULD BE AN INTOLERABLE CRIME." ANOTHER APPEAL URGED ON MARCH 22: "IN ORDER TO AVOID HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES, PLEASE DO NOT FLEE WITH THIEU; DO NOT FORCE THE PEOPLE TM FLEE WITH THIEU; COOPERATE WITH THE PEOPLE IN STRUGGLING TO PREVENT NATIONAL PROPERTY, RECORDS, STORAGE FACILITIES AND MACHINERY." ON THE OTHER HAND, THE "PRG" MARCH 26 STATEMENT AND OTHER APPEALS EXTEND THE CARROT OF PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR NEW COLLABORATORS.

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AMCONSUL HONG KONG
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JUSMAAG
WHITE HOUSE
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4TH PSYOP GP FT BRAGG NC
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B. OFFENSIVE PLANNING BASED ON EXPECTED U.S. INACTION

1. THE CURRENT NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFENSIVE IS A DIRECT EXTENSION OF THE COSVN RESOLUTION FOR 1975 WHICH SURFACED IN INTELLIGENCE REPORTING LAST NOVEMBER AND WHICH, AS THE SAIGON MISSION INDICATED AT THE TIME, POINTED TO SIGNIFICANTLY HEIGHTENED MILITARY ACITIVITY IN 1975 TO DEFEAT PACIFICATION AND TO BRING ABOUT CONDITIONS LEADING TO THE FALL OF THE PRESENT SAIGON GOVERNMENT. (NORTH VIETNAM BI-WEEKLY NO. 23). IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT THE DOCUMENT CALLED

FOR LIBERATION OF ONE HALF OF THE COUNTRYSIDE AND THE DESTRUCTION OF LARGE NUMBERS OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES AS WELL AS THE ISOLATION OF SAIGON, ALL OF WHICH SEEMS INCREASINGLY POSSIBLE. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE THUS ARE PURSUING A SCENARIO WHICH THEY DESIGNED OVER EIGHT MONTHS AGO, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SIGNS THAT THEY ARE ADJUSTING THEIR TIMETABLE AND TACTICS TO REFLECT FAST BREAKING DEVELOPMENTS--MOST PARTICULARLY THE GVN'S PRECIPITOUS PULLBACK IN GVN MR-1 AND IN MR-2 WHICH THEY COULD NOT HAVE FORESEEN. RECENT REPORTING SUGGESTS THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS, IN FACT, HAVE BEEN SURPRISED AT THE RAPIDITY WITH WHICH THE GVN HAS FALLEN BACK IN THE FACE OF NVA PRESSURE.

2. NOW AS IN THE PAST, THE U.S. EQUATION REMAINS PARAMOUNT IN HANOI'S STRATEGIC CALCULATIONS. HANOI OPTED FOR THE OFFENSIVE
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OUTLINED IN THE COSVN RESOLUTION FOR 1975 BECAUSE IT REASONED THAT THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE OVER AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM COUPLED WITH THE NIXON RESIGNATION WEAKENED THE GVN AND CREATED NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR "DECISIVE BLOWS" AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT (NORTH VIETNAM BI-WEEKLY NO. 16). AT THE 23RD PLENUM IN LATE NOVEMBER AND IN DECEMBER 1974, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE APPARENTLY AFFIRMED THEIR OVERALL STRATEGY FOR 1975, CONTINGENT ON THE U.S. RESPONSE TO WHAT WAS TO BE THEIR MOST AMBITIOUS AND AGGRESSIVE EFFORT TO DATE IN THE CAMPAIGN--THE ASSAULT ON AND CAPTURE OF THE PHUOC LONG PROVINCE CAPITAL IN GVN MR-3. (NUMEROUS REPORTS IN DECEMBER 1974 INDICATED THAT THE FIRST PHASE OF THE COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN, TO GET UNDERWAY DURING THAT MONTH, WAS TO TEST BOTH U.S. AND GVN RESPONSE AND RESOLVE.) WHEN PHUOC LONG FINALLY FELL IN JANUARY 1975 WITHOUT PROVOKING U.S. INTERVENTION, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE EVIDENTLY CONCLUDED THAT THEY WERE FREE TO ESCALATE THE FIGHTING EVEN FURTHER WITHOUT FEAR OF U.S. REPRISALS--A CONCLUSION THAT CAN ONLY HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED BY THE CONTINUING U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE OVER THE AID QUESTION. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE PARTY JOURNAL IN JANUARY REFLECTED THIS LINE OF REASONING, ASKING RHETORICALLY WHETHER SOMEONE (THE U.S.) BESET WITH SO MANY PROBLEMS COULD INTERVENE TO SAVE A DROWNING MAN (THE GVN). THE JOURNAL'S CONCLUSION WAS AN EMPHATIC NO.

3. HANOI'S JUDGMENT CONCERNING U.S. INHIBITIONS AND WEAKNESS WAS IMPORTANT FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST, IT MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR MILITARY PLANNERS TO PROGRAM THEIR TACTICS WITHOUT HAVING TO PROVIDE FOR THE POTENTIAL LOSSES OR THE CONTINGENCY FORCE DISPOSITIONS (OR CAUTIONSNESS) WHICH WOULD BE NECESSARY IF THE THREAT OF U.S. INTERVENTION WAS A REAL ONE. SECONDLY, THE HARDLINERS IN THE POLITBURO COULD NOT ARGUE WITH CONVICTION THAT THE MILITARY CAMPAIGN IN THE SOUTH DID NOT DIRECTLY IMPERIL PROSPECTS FOR RECONSTRUCTION IN THE NORTH, SINCE SHORT OF THE REINTRODUCTION OF U.S. BOMBERS THERE WAS NO THREAT TO THE HOME-

AND AND THE LOSS OF MANPOWER IN THE SOUTH COULD BE MINIMIZED.
THE HARDLINERS' ABILITY TO MAKE THIS ARGUMENT AND TO DO SO CON-
VINCLINGLY WAS PROBABLY CRUCIAL TO HANOI'S LARGER POLICY DELIBERA-
TIONS, FOR THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THE DECISION TO RAISE THE ANTE
IN THE SOUTH WAS CONTROVERSIAL, WITH SOME NORTH VIETNAMESE OF-
FICIALS ARGUING THAT INTENSIFIED FIGHTING AND THE ATTENDENT
COSTS IN MANPOWER AND RESOURCES WOULD FURTHER INHIBIT RECON-
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STRUCTION EFFORTS. WITH THE U.S. NOW JUDGED TO BE OUT OF THE
PICTURE, THESE ARGUMENTS WERE LESS COMPELLING THAN BEFORE.

4. ONE CAN ARGUE THAT HANOI'S APPETITE NOW IS INCREASINGLY WITH
THE EATING AND THAT IT MAY ASK A DECISIVE MILITARY VICTORY,

WHEREAS THE COSVN RESOLUTION FOR 1975 CALLED ONLY FOR THE
"CREATION OF CONDITIONS" THAT WOULD LEAD TO THE FALL OF THE THIEU
GOVERNMENT. IN ANY CASE, IT IS CLEAR THAT HANOI'S OVERALL POLICY
HINGES ON ITS DETERMINATION THAT THE U.S. CANNOT AND WILL NOT MOVE
TO OPPOSE CURRENT NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY ACTION IN THE SOUTH.
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C. "PRG" REPRESENTATIVE CALLS FOR EMERGENCY AID

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE CALLED TO PUBLIZE THE "PRG'S" MARCH 21
STATEMENT, THE "PRGGZ REPRESENTATIVE IN HANOI, NGUYEN VAN TIEN,
CALLED UPON "THE WORLD'S PEOPLE" FOR EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN AID
TO GUARANTEE THE LIVELIHOOD OF MORE THAN ONE MILLION NEWLY LIBERATED
COMRADES," ACCORDING TO THE JAPANESE COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER 'AKAHATA.'
TIEN ARGUED THAT THE NEW "COMRADES" HAD "SUFFERED SEVERE EXPLOITAT-
TION...AND SUPPRESSION; THEIR FIELDS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED; THE BASIS
OF THEIR LIVES AND THEIR PRODUCTION WAS DESTROYED; AND ALTHOUGH THEY
HAVE BEEN LIBERATED, THEY MUST BEGIN A NEW LIFE IN THIS SITUATION."
(WHAT TIEN DID NOT SAY IS THAT MUCH OF THE POPULATION OF THE AREAS
HAD MOVED TO GVN AREAS TO ESCAPE "LIBERATION" AND THAT MOST OF THE
DESTRUCTION AND LOSS OF PRODUCTION WAS CAUSED BY NORTH VIETNAMESE

ATTACKS AND BOMBARDMENTS.)

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USLO PEKING

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JUSMAAG

WHITE HOUSE

USAFKCM/ATCS-WL-DSA

4TH PSYOP GP FT BRAGG NC

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D. SWEDISH AID MINISTER RECEIVES "PRG" EMERGENCY AID REQUEST

1. SWEDISH MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT GERTRUDE SIGURDSEN VISITED HANOI MARCH 13 TO 22 TO REVIEW SWEDISH AID TO THE DRV AND "PRG." ON MARCH 20, SHE MET WITH "PRG" MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO NGUYEN VAN HIEU. ACCORDING TO VNA AND LPA, HIEU THANKED HER FOR SWEDISH "POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE IN PAST YEARS," AND SIGURDSEN PROMISED "TO PROMPTLY CARRY OUT THE PLANS ON AID TO THE RSV." A WESTERN PRESS REPORT FROM STOCKHOLM, CITING SWEDISH GOVERNMENT SOURCES, INDICATES, HOWEVER, THAT HIEU ASKED FOR AN UNSPECIFIED AMOUNT OF EMERGENCY FOOD AID FOR THE NEWLY LIBERATED AREAS. WHILE SWEDEN WILL, ACCORDING TO THE STOCKHOLM REPORT, INCREASE ITS LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT AID TO THE "PRG" FOR 1975 FROM 30 MILLION TO 50 MILLION KRONER (\$7 MILLION TO \$12 MILLION), THE SWEDISH MINISTER WOULD NOT PROMISE ANY EMERGENCY AID.

2. MRS. SIGURDSEN, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY STOCKHOLM, WAS IN HANOI PRIMARILY TO INSPECT SWEDISH AID UTILIZATION IN NORTH VIETNAM.

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E. HANOI DOES ITS PART; PHAM VAN DONG SURPRISED AT RAPID SUCCESS

1. PRIME MINISTER PHAM VAN DONG, IN A MEETING WITH SWEDISH AID MINISTER SIGURDSON (SEE PRECEDING ITEM), REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THE "PRG TAKE-OVER" IN THE SOUTH HAD "GONE SO QUICKLY" AND CLAIMED THAT IT WAS PARTLY DUE TO DISINTEGRATING MORALE IN THE ARVN. HE AND OTHER DRV AND "PRG" LEADERS TOLD THE VISITING MINISTER THAT THE "PRG" SUCCESSES WERE POPULAR UPRISINGS. HOWEVER, A VISITING AUSTRALIAN RADIO CORRESPONDENT, IN A MARCH 26 TRANSMISSION FROM HANOI,

REPORTED THAT HIGHWAY ONE FROM HANOI TO QUANG TRI WAS CLOSED TO NORMAL TRAFFIC UNTIL APRIL 15 BECAUSE "THE ROAD WAS PACKED SOLIDLY WITH MILITARY VEHICLES RUSHING MILITARY AID TO THE FRONT IN SOUTH VIETNAM." THE TRUCKS, HE SAID, QUOTING THE "LAST FOREIGN CIVILIAN TO TRAVEL" ON THE ROAD, WERE "CARRYING EVERYTHING FROM SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION TO SOPHISTICATED SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES." THE CORRESPONDENT ALSO CITED LOCAL DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAYING THAT "NORTH VIETNAMESE LEADERS HAVE A REAL FEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL AGAIN BEGIN BOMBING SUPPLY ROUTES IN NORTH VIETNAM."

2. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HAS LIMITED ITS OFFICIAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS, AS IS ITS USUAL PRACTICE, TO THE INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE WAR IN THE SOUTH. TWO FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN STATEMENTS IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS, ON MARCH 22, REJECTED THE "SLANDEROUS ALLEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES" THAT "NORTH VIETNAM HAS SENT BIG FORCES INTO SOUTH VIETNAM AND IS LAUNCHING A BIG OFFENSIVE" AND ON MARCH 26 CONDEMNED THE UPCOMING VISIT OF US ARMY CHIEF WEYAND TO SAIGON AND THE SENDING OF THE HELICOPTER CARRIER 'HANCOCK' TO SOUTH VIETNAMESE WATERS AS "BLATANT VIOLATIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT."

F. VWP FIGURE THANKS HUNGARIANS FOR ICCS WORK

VWP POLITBURO MEMBER HOANG VAN HOAN ADDRESSED THE HUNGARIAN SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY CONGRESS IN BUDAPEST MARCH 20. FOLLOWING ANTICIPATED PRAISE TO HUNGARIAN DEVELOPMENT AND PREDICTIONS OF "STILL GREATER SUCCESSES," HOAN LAUDED THE HUNGARIANS FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES IN THE ICCS IN SOUTH VIETNAM SAYING, "WE HIGHLY APPRECIATE YOUR CONTRIBUTION AND CONSIDER THIS TO BE YET ANOTHER CONFIDENTIAL

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FINE EXPRESSION OF THE MILITANT SOLIDARITY AND FRIENDSHIP" BETWEEN THE DRV AND HUNGARY.

G. COMMUNISTS CLAIM CREDIT FOR BOMBING AMERICAN BUS.

A GRENADE WAS TOSSED ONTO A BUS LOADED WITH AMERICAN MAINTENANCE CONTRACTORS MARCH 18, RESULTING IN SEVERAL MINOR INJURIES. THE "PRG'S" LIBERATION RADIO THE SAME DAY CITED WESTERN NEWS SOURCES IN REPORTING THE INCIDENT BUT LATER, ON MARCH 23, CLAIMED THAT ITS "CITY ARMED FORCES" HAD DONE IT, "KILLING MANY OF THEM." AM LPA ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TRANSMISSION OF MARCH 25 DESCRIBED THE INCIDENT AS "INFLECTING MANY CASUALTIES."

II. EVENTS IN NORTH VIETNAM

A. VFF CENTRAL COMMITTEE CONFERENCE 132F.

1. THE 7TH CONFERENCE OF THE VIETNAM FATHERLAND FRONT (VFF) CENTRAL COMMITTEE WAS HELD IN HANOI MARCH 19-21 UNDER THE CHAIR-

MANSHIP OF THE DRV PRESIDENT AND VFF CHAIRMAN TON DUC THANG.
THE "MAJOR TASKS" SET FORTH AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE
PROVIDED A SIGNIFICANT VARIATION ON THE ORDER IN WHICH DRV
PRIORITIES HAVE BEEN LISTED IN PUBLIC MEDIA FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS.
RANKED FIRST OF THE FOUR "TASKS" THE VFF SET FOR ITSELF IN 1975
WAS THE MOTIVATION OF THE DRV POPULACE "TO WHOLEHEARTEDLY AID TO
THE BEST OF THEIR ABILITY THE JUST STRUGGLE OF THE KITH AND KIN
SOUTHERN COMPATRIOTS." THE LISTING OF "TASKS" ALSO PROVIDED
IMPLICIT REFUTATION OF RECENT SPECULATION THAT THE DRV INTENDS
TO AT LEAST TEMPORARILY SUSPEND ITS 1976-80 FIVE-YEAR PLAN IN
ORDER TO COPE WITH ITS VASTLY INCREASED PHYSICAL COMMITMENT TO
THE WAR IN THE SOUTH. SECOND ON THE LIST OF VFF "TASKS" WAS THE
MOBILIZATION OF POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMIC REHABILITATION
EFFORTS AND COMPLETION OF THE 76 80 FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CIA
DIA
JCS
JUSMAAG
WHITE HOUSE
USAJFKCMA/ATCS-WL-DSA
4TH PSYOP GP FT BRAGG NC
CINCPAC
CINCPACAF
CINCPACFLT
DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG UDORN
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
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AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USDAO SAIGON
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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2. PRINCIPAL ADDRESS AT THE VFF CENTRAL COMMITTEE CONFERENCE WAS DELIVERED BY VFF SECRETARY-GENERAL TRAN HUU DUYET. DUYET WAS FOCUSED ON DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, CALLING FOR INTENSIFIED "PROP-AGANDA" AND "MANIFESTATIONS OF NEGATIVENESS," AND GREATER COORDINATION BETWEEN VFF AND STATE ACTIVITIES. IN A PASSAGE THAT SUGGESTS SOME OF DUYET'S AUDIENCE MAY HAVE HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE DRV'S "GUNS AND BUTTER" POLICY, DUYET CALLED ON THE VFF TO INCREASE ITS EFFORTS TO "STRENGTHEN SOLIDARITY AND VIGOROUSLY STRIVE TO OVER-COME OBSTACLES AND DIFFICULTIES. ..."

B. ELECTION PREPARATIONS NEARING COMPLETION

1. PREPARATIONS FOR THE APRIL 6 ELECTION OF THE DRV NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, 5TH TERM, HAVE GONE FORWARD AMIDST SOME OFFICIAL ENTHUSIASM, ALTHOUGH THE LEVEL OF MEDIA ATTENTION TO THE ELECTIONS IS LOWER THAN IN 1971, WHEN THE 4TH TERM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WAS CHOSEN. A NUMBER OF SENIOR PARTY AND STATE FIGURES, INCLUDING PRESIDENT TON DUC THANG, VICE-PRESIDENT NGUYEN LUONG BANG, PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG, VWP FIRST SECRETARY LE DUAN, AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TRUONG CHING, ARE AMONG THE 52 CANDIDATES STANDING FOR ELECTION FROM HANOI CONSTITUENCIES. AS USUAL, ALMOST ALL CANDIDATES FOR THE 425 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEATS HAVE BEEN SELECTED AND APPROVED BY VARIOUS VIETNAM

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FATHERLAND FRONT ORGANIZATIONS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT, AS IN 1971, MOST PARTY AND STATE LEADERS WILL STAND FOR AND BE RE-ELECTED TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEATS.

2. PREPARATIONS FOR DISTRICT AND VILLAGE LEVEL PEOPLE'S COUNCILS, APPARENTLY TO BE HELD ON A STAGGERED BASIS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF APRIL, ALSO ARE NEARING COMPLETION. USUALLY HEAVILY TOUTED AS EXERCISES IN "PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY," THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL ELECTIONS THIS YEAR HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT OVERSHADOWED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, PEOPLE'S COUNCIL ELECTIONS ARE PROBABLY OF GREATER PRACTICAL IMPORTANCE TO THE HANOI REGIME AS THE COUNCILS WILL FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS.

C. CENTRAL COMMITTEE ALTERNATE DIES

VWP CENTRAL COMMITTEE ALTERNATE MEMBER TRUONG CHI CUONG DIED IN HANOI MARCH 24 AT THE AGE OF 56. CUONG, THE AUTHOR OF A RECENT "HOC TAP" ARTICLE RATIONALIZING THE CURRENT NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFENSIVE (SEE BI-WEEKLY NO. 30), HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN IDENTIFIED AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE VWPCC AND IT IS PRESUMED HE WAS APPOINTED TO THAT POSITION SUBSEQUENT TO THE 1969 THIRD VWP CONGRESS. THE RADIO HANOI REPORT OF CUONG'S DEATH NOTED HIS CASKET AND REMAINS WERE BEING SHOWN AT THE REUNIFICATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE, SUGGESTING THAT CUONG WAS A SOUTHERNER.

III. FOREIGN RELATIONS

A. CHINESE MILITARY DELEGATION DEPARTS

THE PRC MILITARY DELEGATION WHICH HAD ARRIVED IN HANOI FEBRUARY 28 AND TOURED THE NORTH VIETNAMESE PANHANDLE MARCH 5-10, RETURNED TO PEKING MARCH 14 (SEE NVN BIWEEKLIES 29 AND 30).

B. DRV PREMIER PLEDGES CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR KHMER ROUGE

THE 5TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF THE NUFC AND CPNLAF (MARCH 23) WAS MARKED IN HANOI BY A "GRAND RECEPTION" GIVEN MARCH 22 BY RGNUC AMBASSADOR TO HANOI SIEN AN. THE RECEPTION, WHICH FOL-

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LOWED AN ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS GRAND "MEETING" SPONSORED BY THE VIETNAM FATHERLAND FRONT AND THE VIETNAM-CAMBODIA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION THE DAY BEFORE, WAS ATTENDED BY PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG, DEFENSE MINISTER VO NGUYEN GIAP, AND VICE PREMIER LE THANH NGHI (ALL MEMBERS OF THE VWP POLITBURO). IN A SPEECH GIVEN AT THE RECEPTION, AMBASSADOR SIEN AN EXPRESSED HIS "PROFOUND GRATITUDE" FOR THE VWP-DRV'S "GREAT ASSISTANCE, WHICH IS AN INDISPENSABLE FACTOR LEADING TO OUR VICTORIES." AN ALSO CONGRATULATED THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ON THEIR RECENT "GREAT VICTORIES" IN THE SOUTH, NOTING THAT THE CAMBODIANS "CONSIDER THESE GREAT VICTORIES OUR OWN." IN A BRIEF REPLY, PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG REITERATED THE VWP-DRV'S "UNSWERVING POLICY" OF STRENGTHENING "FRIENDSHIP AND MILITANT SOLIDARITY" BETWEEN HANOI AND THE KHMER INSURGENTS. COMMENT: GIVEN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HANOI AND THE KHMER COMMUNISTS, IT IS PERHAPS NOTEWORTHY THAT NO SENIOR KC FIGURES WERE PRESENT IN HANOI FOR THE CELEBRATIONS. SIHANOUK CELEBRATED THE OCCASION IN PEKING WITH HIS CHINESE PATRONS. END COMMENT.

C. LAO DELEGATION ARRIVES IN HANOI

A LAO NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL OF COALITION (NPCC) DELEGATION LED BY NPCC VICE PRESIDENT PRINCE SISOUANG SISALEUMSAK ARRIVED IN HANOI MARCH 22 ON AN "OFFICIAL VISIT." THE LAOS WERE GREETED AT THE AIRPORT BY TRAN DANG KHOA AND NGUYEN THI THAP, BOTH VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE DRV NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE (NASC), AND BY VWP CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT MEMBER XUAN THUY, IN HIS ROLE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMISSION. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT HAS NOT BEEN MADE CLEAR. IN A MARCH 22 MEETING WITH VWP POLITBURO MEMBER AND NASC CHAIRMAN TRUONG CHINH, THE LAO DELEGATION LEADER EXPRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT THE VISIT "WILL FURTHER CONSOLIDATE" RELATIONS BETWEEN LAOS AND NORTH VIETNAM.

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NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DPW-01 NIC-01 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CIA

DIA

JCS

JUSMAAG

WHITE HOUSE

USAJFKCMA/ATCS-WL-DSA

4TH PSYOP GP FT BRAGG NC

CINCPAC

CINCPACAF

CINCPACFLT

DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG UDORN

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

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D. NHAN DAN, LIBERATION RADIO COMMENT ON THAI GOVERNMENT

OFFICIAL MEDIA OF BOTH THE DRV AND "PRG" HAVE DISPLAYED GUARDED OPTIMISM ABOUT THE FOREIGN POLICY OF NEW THAI PREMIER KHUKRIT PRAMOJ. IN A MARCH 22 COMMENTARY, HANOI'S NHAN DAN SAID THAT KHUKRIT'S FLEXIBLE ONE-YEAR DEADLINE ON U.S. MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM THAILAND "PARTLY REAPONDED TO THE ASPIRATION OF BROAD SECTIONS OF THE THAI PEOPLE" AND "CONFORM TO THE REALITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA," BUT, "ON THE OTHER HAND, ONE CANNOT FAIL TO NOTE SOME HESITATION AND DEVIOUSNESS." NHAN DAN' REVIVED THE CONDITIONS OF DRV FOREIGN MINISTER TRINH'S JANUARY 25 LETTER TO HIS THAI COUNTERPART AT THE TIME REGARDING IMPROVING THAI/DRV RELATIONS (SEE NVN BIWEEKLY NO. 28). ECHOING THIS ANALYSIS, LIBERATION RADIO COMMENTED ON MARCH 22 THAT KHUKRIT'S STATEMENTS, "DO NOT SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFER" FROM THOSE OF HIS DEPOSED BROTHER SENI, AND SAID THEY "ARE STILL PARTIALLY DEVIOUS, HESITANT AND NOT AS DECISIVE AS THE THAI PEOPLE WANT THEM TO BE."

E. JAPAN/DRV

AN EIGHT-MEMBER DRV ECONOMIC MISSION, HEADED BY TRAN VAN TRACH, DIRECTOR OF THE FIRST ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, ARRIVED IN TOKYO MARCH 18 FOR TALKS ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND CONFIDENTIAL

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JAPANESE AID TO NORTH VIETNAM. JAPAN'S INITIAL 5 BILLION YEN GRANT, REPORTEDLY TO BE USED FOR COMMODITIES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES, MAY BE FORMALLY COMMITTED DURING THE VISIT, AND FUTURE AID WILL PROBABLY BE DISCUSSED. THE VISIT HAS NOT BEEN MENTIONED BY HANOI MEDIA. A TOKYO PRESS REPORT, QUOTING A JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL, INDICATES THAT THE PARIL 1 SCHEDULED OPENING OF THE EMBASSY IN HANOI WILL BE DELAYED FOR "PHYSICAL REASONS" BUT WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE IN APRIL (SEE NVN BIWEEKLY NO. 30).

F. AUSTRALIA/DRV

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST AMBASSADOR TO NORTH VIETNAM, DAVID GEORGE WILSON, ARRIVED IN HANOI MARCH 13 AND PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS MARCH 18. THE AUSTRALIAN CHARGE, GRAEME LEWIS, DEPARTED HANOI A FEW DAYS PREVIOUSLY AND WAS KILLED MARCH 12 IN THE CRASH NEAR PLEIKU OF AN AIR VIETNAM FLIGHT FROM VIENTIANE TO SAIGON WHICH

MAY HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN BY COMMUNIST GUNNERS.

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G. ITALY/DRV

THE DEPARTMENT REPORTS THAT AN ITALIAN UN MISSION OFFICER
WILL TRAVEL TO HANOI IN EARLY APRIL TO OPEN AN ITALIAN EMBASSY.
A GOI ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS APPOINTMENT WILL BE MADE BEFORE THEN.

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H. DRV/GUINEA BISSAU

ACCORDING TO RADIO HANOI, THE DRV'S FIRST AMBASSADOR TO
GUINEA-BISSAU, TRAN VAN DUOC, PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO
PRESIDENT LUIS CABRAL ON MARCH 13.

I. MME HINH CONTINUES TRAVELS

"PRG" FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN THI BINH CONTINUED HER AFRO-
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ASIAN TOUR (SEE NVN BIWEEKLY NO. 30), VISITING LIBYA MARCH 12-15,
DURING WHICH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WERE FORMALLY ESTABLISHED
(SEE ITEM J). HER TRAVELS HAVE NOT BEEN COVERED RECENTLY BY
LIBERATION RADIO,

PP

RENTLY BECAUSE OF THE PRESS OF WAR
PROPAGANDA. HOWEVER, WESTERN NEWS REPORTS INDICATE SHE WAS
IN CYPRUS MARCH 24 AT THE HEAD OF AN AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLES SOLIDARITY
ORGANIZATION DELEGATION, BLAMING "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM" FOR
CYPRUS' TROUBLES.

J. LIBYA/DRV, LIBYA/"PRG"

THE LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC FORMALLY ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL WITH THE DRV AND THE "PRG"
ON MARCH 15, DURING A VISIT OF "PRG" FOREIGN MINISTER MME. NHUYEN
THI BINH. THE "PRG" HAD CLAIMED EARLIER (SEE NVN BIWEEKLY NO. 30)
THAT LIBYA HAD RECOGNIZED THE "PRG" ON JANUARY 1 DURING THE VISIT
OF NGUYEN VAN TIEN.

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TAGS: PFOR, MILI, EGEN, PGOV, PINR, VN
To: STATE
Type: TE
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